

## Embracing Disability, Inclusion, and Accessibility to Make an Impact in Jewish Atlanta

JAccess promotes an inclusive community that celebrates the uniqueness of each person and lifts the voices and experiences of people with disabilities. JAccess supports Jewish Atlanta in valuing people with disabilities, regarding them as full participants in all that our community provides. JAccess acts as a platform to further inclusion across the lifespan, ensuring that considerations of inclusion and accessibility are integrated into planning, mindset, and service provision within the Jewish community.



## JAccess Areas of Focus

### Increasing Individual & Organizational Awareness

- Disability awareness programs and training for the Jewish community
- Advocacy and advancing employment for people with disabilities

### Increasing Organizational Capacity

- Strengthen relationships with camps to better serve campers with support needs
- Inclusion grants, funding for accessibility and facility improvements to make welcoming communities
- Provide American with Disability Act consulting and referrals for community partners
- Education & consulting

*"The impact of JAccess resonates far and wide, and we are incredibly fortunate to have JAccess as a guiding force in our journey towards a more inclusive and accessible community."*

-Denise, JAccess grantee

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## JAccess Areas of Focus (continued)

### Increasing Community Planning

- Developed a Jewish Disability Professional Network to provide a platform to connect, collaborate, share resources, and provide support
- Ensuring that community events & material are accessible, providing community partners with this knowledge (CART Captioning & ASL interpreters at events as required)
- Emergency Preparedness Planning: Developed accessible emergency response planning resources, such as evacuation assistance, communication support, and shelter options tailored to individuals with disabilities. Linked in with FEMA, Live Secure & SCN
- Providing consultation and feedback for organizational expansion of housing and career services

## Our Impact

- **\$368,300** in grants was awarded to Jewish community partners to enhance inclusion and accessibility over the last 2 years
- **1,667** individuals received inclusion training in the past 2 years
- **11,664** individuals participated in community awareness events to foster a shared dialogue and vision of inclusion in the past 2 years
- **40+** Jewish classrooms received educational consulting providing strategies to make classrooms and teaching practices more inclusive
- **\$21,000** distributed for inclusion and accessibility projects

JAccess has established the Disability Synagogue Inclusion Committee, dedicated to fostering inclusive communities within synagogues for individuals with disabilities. This committee actively assists synagogues in making their spaces, information, and materials accessible. Moreover, it strives to enhance community awareness about the social model of disability, emphasizing the significance of creating inclusive environments. The committee convenes quarterly, providing a platform for members to connect, share ideas, and collaborate with one another to advance the mission of inclusion.

*“JAccess training has proven to be an invaluable resource, equipping our community with the tools and mindset necessary for genuine inclusion.”*

–Synagogue Inclusion  
Committee Member

## New in 2024

- 5 x Jewish Preschools (5) are participating in the Disability Inclusion Initiative in partnership with Children's Health Care of Atlanta and Marcus Autism Center
- Developing a Parent's Disability Inclusion Leadership program steeped in Jewish values
- Working to strengthen employment for individuals with disabilities through partnership with UGA, Advancing Employment & JF&CS. Partnered in a conference at the Carter Center and the JAccess team were guest speakers on 2 webinars
- Consulted with community partner to increase capacity in development of neurodivergent programming to raise awareness and acceptance
- Collaborating with community partners to create and deliver best-practice training modules for disability organizations, ensuring that people with disabilities have the opportunity to lead ordinary and fulfilling lives
- Expanded innovative training sessions & modules



## About the Future

### In 2025, we will:

- Initiate a cohort of camp inclusion directors to continue the essential work of ensuring that all Jewish campers have the opportunity to fully experience camp
- Enhance collaboration with JFNA Inclusion Professionals to exchange knowledge and resources, fostering greater innovation and efficiency in meeting the needs of our community